

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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R 271454Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2585

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS PRETORIA 3264

E.9. 11652 N/A

TAGS PINS, PINT, SF

SUBJECT BREYTEN BREYTENBACH HELD UNDER TERRORISM ACT

1. MINISTER OF POLICE AND JUSTICE KRUGER ANNOUNCED AUGUST 26 THAT BREYTEN BREYTENBACH, ONE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S LEADING AFRIKANER POETS AND SELF-EXILED PARIS-BASED CRITIC OF SAG, WAS ARRESTED AUGUST 19. BREYTENBACH APPARENTLY ENTERED SOUTH AFRICA DISGUISED AS A FRENCHMAN ON AUGUST 1. HE IS BEING HELD FOR QUESTIONING UNDER PROVISIONS OF SECTION 6 OF TERRORISM ACT.

2. KRUGER REFUSED TO COMMENT ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BREYTENBACH'S ARREST AND DETENTION OF FIVE WHITE POLITICAL ACTIVISTS FOLLOWING DAY. HOWEVER, BREYTENBACH'S ASSOCIATION WITH NUSAS AND WITH DETAINED / REV. JAMES POLLEY WELL-DOCUMENTED. IN 1971 AUTHOR ACCEPTED POSITION AS HONORARY VICE PRESIDENT OF NUSAS. POLLEY IS BELIEVED TO BE PERSONAL FRIEND OF BREYTENBACH'S AND AS MEMBER OF UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN'S EXTRAMURAL PROGRAMS, HAD ORGANIZED A CONFERENCE ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO ON "SESTIGER" MOVEMENT (THE "SIXTIES" AVANT GARDE AFRIKAANS LITERARY MOVEMENT OF WHICH BREYTENBACH WAS A PRINCIPAL CONTRI-  
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BUTOR) WHICH THE AUTHOR ATTENDED.

3. SPEAKING BEFORE ANNOUNCEMENT OF BREYTENBACH'S ARREST, MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND INFORMATION MULDER TOLD A PARTISAN CROWD AT THE TRANSVAAL NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS THAT GOVERNMENT CRITICS WILL BE "ASHAMED" ONCE FACTS OF DETENTIONS MADE KNOWN. THOUGH PURELY SPECULATIVE AT THIS POINT, MANY, INCLUDING MP HELEN SUZMAN, BELIEVE GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE EVIDENCE INDICATING FIVE DETAINEES HAD CONTACT WITH BREYTENBACH AFTER HIS ENTRANCE INTO COUNTRY WITH FALSE DOCUMENTS.

4. MEANWHILE, STUDENT PROTEST AGAINST DETENTIONS CONTINUED. APPROXIMATELY 6,000 STUDENTS GATHERED FOR RALLY AT JOHANNESBURG'S WITWATERSRAND UNIVERSITY AND MANY THEN DISPERSED TO HOLD PLACARDS ALONG MAJOR HIGHWAYS. MEETING OF JOHANNESBURG CITY COUNCIL BRIEFLY INTERRUPTED BY STUDENTS AFTER THAT BODY REFUSED TO GIVE PERMISSION FOR PROTEST MEETING IN FRONT OF CIVIC CENTRE. HOWEVER, PERMISSION WAS GRANTED FOR GATHERING AT LESS CENTRAL SITE.

5. WITS UNIV. STUDENTS ALSO UPSET BY ARREST OF CARLOS CARDOSO FORMER STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEMBER AND OUTSPOKEN CRITIC OF DETENTIONS. CARDOSO HAS BEEN DETAINED AS AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT AND TO OUR KNOWLEDGE IS NOT BEING HELD UNDER TERRORISM ACT.  
BOWDLER

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